



Press Release

National
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Service

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Rice Yields Remain on Target for Record

“Rice yields continue to be the big story for the 2009 crop year,” according to Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “All indications point to a record rice yield. Although progressing well, harvest of most crops is slightly behind normal,” Crisp added.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 29.6 million cwt, up 13 percent from the previous month and up nine percent from 2008. Estimated production is up from last month as rice harvested acreage was revised to 470,000 acres, up 55,000 acres from the June 1 estimate. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,300 pounds, unchanged from previous month but up 470 pounds from last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 219 million cwt, up four percent from the August forecast and up seven percent from last year.

Soybean production is expected to total 35 million bushels in Louisiana, unchanged from the August first estimate but up 12 percent from 2008. An estimated one million acres will be harvested, up 50,000 acres from 2008. Yield is forecast at 35 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous month but up two bushels from last year. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at a record high 3.3 billion bushels, up one percent from the August forecast and up 10 percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 405,000 bales, down four percent from the August first estimate but up 44 percent from last year. Acreage of cotton expected for harvest is forecast at 225,000 acres, down 9,000 acres from a year ago. The expected yield per acre, at 864 pounds, is up six pounds from the August forecast and up 288 pounds from 2008. **Upland cotton** production for the U.S. is forecast at 13.1 million bales, up two percent from last month and up six percent from last year.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 91.1 million bushels, unchanged from the previous month’s estimate but up 24 percent from last year. An estimated 680,000 acres will be harvested for grain, up 170,000 acres from a year ago. Yield per acre, at 134 bushels, is unchanged from last month but down 10 bushels from last year’s yield. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 13 billion bushels, up two percent from last month and seven percent higher than 2008.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 10.8 million net tons, unchanged from the previous month but down six percent from last year. Harvested acreage for sugar and seed is forecast at 400,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 27 net tons per acre, unchanged from the August first estimate but down 1.3 net tons from last year. U.S. production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed in 2009 is forecast at 28 million net tons, down four percent from the August first forecast but up one percent from 2008.

Sorghum production is estimated at 7.1 million bushels in the state, unchanged from the August first estimate but down 26 percent from 2008. Acreage to be harvested for grain is forecast at 95,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 75 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but down 12 bushels from a year ago. U.S. production of **sorghum** is forecast at 390 million bushels, up two percent from last month but down 18 percent from last year.

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